

*Main Office  
400 North Tampa Street, Suite 3200  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
813/274-6000  
813/274-6358 (Fax)*



*Post Office Box 600  
200 West Forsyth Street, Room 700  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
904/232-2682  
904/232-2620 (Fax)*

*2110 First Street, Suite 3-137  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
941/461-2200  
941/461-2219 (fax)*

U.S. Department of Justice  
*United States Attorney  
Middle District of Florida*

*80 North Hughey Avenue, Room 201  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407/648-7500  
407/648-7643 (Fax)*

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Reply to: **Tampa, FL**

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**CRACK DEALER FACES LIFE SENTENCE**

Late yesterday afternoon, a federal jury in Tampa found Barrington Christie, 58, a Jamaican citizen, guilty on charges of conspiracy to distribute and distribution of crack cocaine. Because of prior convictions, including 4 felony drug convictions, Christie faces a mandatory term of life imprisonment. Christie was arrested in January 2002 in Tampa after a year-long investigation into crack cocaine distribution.

Also named in the indictment were Desmond Henry, Devon Bennett and Barrington Christie's son Michael Christie. All three have previously pled guilty to crack cocaine distribution charges.

The task force investigation involved the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Tampa Police Department, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, and the United States Marshal's Service. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James Preston.